1 2 3	Jacob M. Faircloth, Esq. (SB No. 305390) Bluestone Faircloth & Olson, LLP 1825 Fourth Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404 Telephone: (707) 526-4250 Facsimile: (707) 526-0347	
4	Email: jacob@bfolegal.com	
5	Attorneys for Movants, Joseph Ruppe, Katherine Ruppe,	
6	Alexander Ruppe, and Jackson Ruppe	
7	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
8		SCO DIVISION
9	In Re	Case No. 19-30088-DM
10	PG&E CORPORATION,	Chapter 11
11	and	(Lead Case–Jointly Administered)
12 13	PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY	MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF JOSEPH
14	Debtors.	RUPPE, KATHERINE RUPPE, ALEXANDER RUPPE, AND JACKSON RUPPE, AND
15	Affects:	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND
16	<ul> <li>□ PG&amp;E Corporation</li> <li>□ Pacific Gas &amp; Electric Company</li> <li>☑ Both Debtors</li> </ul>	DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN SUPPORT THEREOF
17	*All papers shall be filed in the Lead	Date: September 28, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m.
18	Case, No. 19-30088-DM	Location: Via ZOOM or Telephone
19		
20	Land Danie Valenie Danie Ala	1 D 1 I1 D
21	Joseph Ruppe, Katherine Ruppe, Ale	
22	("Movants") file this motion to deem timely a late filed proof of claim, Claim No.	
23	108769, filed on August 16, 2022.	
24	I. Summary of Argument	
25	A proof of claim may be deemed timely upon a showing of excusable neglect and	
26	lack of prejudice. In this case, due to a variety of stressors and personal factors arising	
27	from the 2017 fires ("North Bay Fires"), Movants were unable to timely file their proof	
28	of claim. Because there is no danger of prejudice to the Debtors, as Debtors' estates are	
Case	MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF J RUPPE, ALEXANDER RUPPE, AND JACKSON RUPPE, AN AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE I 19-30088 Doc# 12772 Filed: 08/19/2 of 16	D MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND IN SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 1

Case

solvent, and all creditors in these cases stand to be paid their pro rata shares, the Motion should be granted to allow the Movants to have the claim deemed timely.

#### II. Factual Background

#### A. Pertinent Bankruptcy Background.

On January 29, 2019, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("Debtors" or "PG&E") commenced the above-captioned voluntary Chapter 11 cases ("Chapter 11 Cases"). PG&E's Chapter 11 filings were necessitated by a confluence of factors resulting from catastrophic fires that occurred in Northern California prior to the Petition Date, and PG&E's potential liabilities arising therefrom.

The deadline for filing proofs of claim with respect to any prepetition claim including, but not limited to, all claims of Fire Claimants, Wildfire Subrogation Claimants, Governmental Units and Customers, and all secured and priority claims against the Debtors was October 21, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. ("General Bar Date").

The deadline for filing claims was extended to December 31, 2019 ("Extended Bar Date"), solely for the benefit of any non-governmental Fire Claimants who did not file proofs of claim by the General Bar Date. [See Docket No. 4672]

On January 31, 2020, as Docket No. 5590, Debtors filed an Amended Chapter 11 Plan Debtor's and Shareholder Proponents' Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization Dated January 31, 2020.

On February 7, 2020, as Docket No. 5700, Debtors filed a Disclosure Statement for the Amended Plan.

On February 19, 2020, as Docket No. 5835, Debtors filed their Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Approving Form and Manner of Notice of Hearing on Proposed Disclosure Statement; (II) Establishing and Approving Plan Solicitation and Voting Procedures; (III) Approving Forms of Ballots, Solicitation Packages, and Related Notices; and (IV) Granting Related Relief ("Solicitation Procedures Motion").

On March 17, 2020, the Solicitations Procedures Motion was Approved.

UTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 3

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#### III. Legal Argument

In a Chapter 11 case, the time to file a proof of claim may be extended under certain Circumstances. Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure ("FRBP") 3003(c)(3); FRBP 9006(b)(1). The bankruptcy court has "broad equitable powers" in a Chapter 11 case with respect to the timing requirements for proofs of claim *Pioneer Inventory Services v. Brunswick Associates Limited Partnership*, 507 U.S. 380, 389 (1993). Moreover, Rule 9006(b)(1) allows "late filings caused by inadvertence, mistake, or carelessness, not just those caused by intervening circumstances beyond a party's control." *Id*, at 381. Even a creditor that did in fact receive notice may file a proof of claim notwithstanding the expiration of a claims bar date in a Chapter 11 case upon a showing of "excusable neglect." *Id.*, at 394-95 ("Had respondents here been prevented from complying with the bar date by an act of God or some other circumstance beyond their control, the Bankruptcy Court plainly would have been permitted to find 'excusable neglect' [under FRBP 9006].").

In considering whether a creditor's failure was the product of "excusable neglect," the Court should take account of the following: all relevant circumstances surrounding the party's omission, including (1) the danger of prejudice to the debtor, (2) the length of the delay and its potential impact on judicial proceedings, (3) the reason for the delayed, including whether it was within the reasonable control fo the movant, and (4) whether the movant acted in good faith. *Id.*, at 395; See also *Corning v. Corning (In re Zilog, Inc.)*, 450 F.3d 996 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006)(noting *Pioneer's* non-exhaustive list of relevant factors). Again, a late-filed proof of claim is allowable where a creditor had actual notice fo the bankruptcy, but, due to some external reason, failed to file a proof of claim or did not realize that she or he had to prior to the bar date. See, e.g., *ZiLOG, Inc. V. Corning (In re ZiLOG, Inc.)*, 450 F.3d 996, 1003-1007 (9<sup>th</sup> Circ. 2006) (applying the *Pioneer* factors). Here, consideration of all four *Pioneer* factors—as well as the fifth engrafted onto the *Pioneer* analysis by some courts—weights in favor of the Movant.

MOTION TO ALLOW/DEEM TIMELY LATE FILING OF JOSEPH RUPPE, KATHERINE RUPPE, ALEXANDER RUPPE, AND JACKSON RUPPE, AND MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF ROBERT BONE IN SUPPORT THEREOF - Page 4

1	In particular, there is no danger of prejudice to the Debtors in this case. Thus, the
2	first <i>Pioneer</i> factor weights in favor of the Movants. The Debtors' estates are solvent,
3	and all creditors stand to be paid their pro rata share. See, E.G., In re Best Payphones,
4	Inc., 523 B.R. 54, 75-76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2015) and In re Sheehan Mem'l Hosp., 507
5	B.R. 802, 803 (Bankr. W.D.N.Y. 2014) (where the Chapter 11 estate is solvent, "the
6	proper remedy for a late filing is not the expungement of a claim, but its allowance as a
7	tardily filed claim only.). Secondly, immediately upon receiving all the necessary
8	information, the Subject Proof of Claim was filed. Thirdly, the delay in filing the Subjec
9	Proof of Claim is reasonable considering immediately upon becoming aware of the
10	damages that arose from the North Bay Fires, the Law Office of Robert M. Bone was
11	retained in this matter and a proof of claim was filed by the Law Office of Robert M.
12	Bone on behalf of Movants. More, any prospect of prejudice beyond solvency is unlikely
13	given that (a) all distributions have not yet been made; and (b) the value of Movants'
14	claims relative to the value fo Debtors' estates is low. See, e.g., In re Keene Corp., 188
15	B.R. 903, 910 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1995) (size of the late claim in relation to the estate is a
16	consideration in determining prejudice).
17	Finally, the Fire Victim Trust has been routinely permitting late proofs of claims
18	to be allowed, where such tardiness is excusable under the <i>Pioneer</i> factors and foregoing
19	Only until very recently did the Fire Victim Trust begin to no longer sign-off on such
20	tardy claims-without any consideration or individual review of each such request. In
21	which case, the Movants contend that good cause exists and the Motion should be
22	granted.
23	IV.
24	Conclusion
25	Based upon the foregoing, the Movants hereby request that the Court grant this
26	Motion and deem timely the Subject Proof of Claim.
27	WHEREFORE, the Movants pray for an order:
28	1. Granting the Motion in its entirety;

1	Deadline that Movants realized their damages may be compensable and that they should	
2	file a proof of claim for their losses.	
3	4. I have recently met with the Movants to discuss their claim/case, who	
4	contacted my office. After meeting with the Movants, I prepared the Subject Proof of	
5	Claim. The Movants were not aware that they had a claim against the Debtors until	
6	July/August 2022 and they spoke with me very shortly after learning they had a possible	
7	claim. I believe that had the Movants become aware they had a claim they would have	
8	filed it sooner.	
9	5. Thus, on August 16, 2022, I filed Claim No. 108769 on behalf of the	
10	Movants ("Subject Proof of Claim"). A true and correct copy of the Subject Proof of	
11	Claim is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and, by this reference, is incorporated herein.	
12	6. Based on the foregoing, the Movants now bring this Motion to have the	
13	Subject Proof of Claim deemed timely.	
14	I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States and of the	
15	State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Santa Rosa, CA, on	
16	August 19, 2022. /S/ Robert M. Bone	
17	By:Robert M. Bone	
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of 16

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I hereby certify that on August 19, 2022, a copy of the foregoing was filed electronically. Notice of this filing will be sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. Parties may access this filing through the Court's filing system. /S/ Jacob M. Faircloth **DATED:** August 19, 2022 By\_\_\_ Jacob M. Faircloth 

Case

## EXHIBIT 1

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## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA (SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION)

In re:
PG&E CORPORATION,
- and PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY,
Debtors.

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-30088 (DM)

Chapter 11 (Lead Case) (Jointly Administered)

## **Proof of Claim (Fire Claim Related)**

Read the instructions before filing this claim form. This form is for tort claimants who have a claim against the Debtors (i.e. PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company) that arose prior to the Debtors filing for bankruptcy (i.e. prior to January 29, 2019) and that arose from, or relates to, a fire.

Do not use this form for non-fire claims. Non-fire tort claimants should use Form 410.

Do NOT file a fraudulent claim. A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Please type or print in the spaces below. Do NOT use red ink or pencil.

P	art 1: Identify the Ci	aim		
1.	Who is the current creditor?	Joseph Ruppe  Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this claim)		
2.	Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	No Yes. From wh	om?	
	Are you filing this claim on behalf of your		If you checked "Yes", please provide t behalf of:	he full name of each family member that you are filing on
	family? A family is a group of two	✓ Yes	Katherine Ruppe	
	or more people related by birth, marriage, domestic		Alexander Ruppe	
	partnership, or adoption and residing together. All		Jackson Ruppe	
	such people are considered as members of one family.			
4.	Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?		otices to the creditor be sent?	Where should payments to the creditor be sent? (if different)
	Federal Rule of	Name Law Off	ice of Robert M. Bone	Name Daniel Crowley & Associates
	Bankruptcy Procedure	Attorney Name (if applicable) Robert M. Bone, Esq.		Attorney Name (if applicable) Daniel F. Crowley, Esq.
	(FRBP) 2002(g)	Attorney Bar Number (if applicable) 181526		Attorney Bar Number (if applicable) 130261
		Street Address 645 Fourth Street, Suite 205		Street Address P.O. Box R
		<sub>City</sub> Santa Rosa		<sub>City</sub> San Rafael
		State_CA		State CA
		Zip Code_95404		Zip Code 94913
		Phone Number 7075258999		Phone Number 7075258999
		Email Address bob@robertbonelaw.com		Email Address dcrowley@dcalaw.com
5.	Does this claim amend one already filed?	☑ No ☐ Yes. Claim r	number on court claims registry (ifknown)	Filed on
6.	Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	No Yes. Who ma	de the earlier filing?	

P	art 2: Give Informati	on About the Claim as of the Date this Claim Form is Filed	
7.	What fire is the basis of your claim? Check all that apply.	Camp Fire (2018)  ✓ North Bay Fires (2017)  ☐ Ghost Ship Fire (2016)  ☐ Butte Fire (2015)  ☐ Other (please provide date and brief description of fire:	
8.	What are the loss location(s) where you and/or your family suffered harm? (e.g. home or business address, place of injury, place from which you were evacuated, if different.?	Location(s): 5908 Mountain Hawk Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95409	
9.	How were you and/or your family harmed?  Check all that apply	Property Damage (homes, structures, personal property, land, trees, landscaping, and all other property damage)    Owner	
10	. What damages are you and/or your family claiming/seeking?  Check all that apply	Economic damages (including replacement cost of damaged property, diminution in value, loss of use, lost inventory, lost profits, and other economic damage)  Non-economic damages (including loss of society and support, loss of consortium, pain and suffering, emotional distress, annoyance and discomfort, and other non-economic damage)  Punitive, exemplary, and statutory damages  Attorney's fees and litigation costs  Interest  Any and all other damages recoverable under California law  Other (Please specify):	
11	. How much is the claim?	\$(optional)  Unknown / To be determined at a later date	

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#### Part 3: Sign

Sign Below

The person completing
this proof of claim must
sign and date it.
FRBP 9011(b).
If you file this slaim

If you file this claim electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts to establish local rules specifying what a signature is.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Check the appropriate box:			
_	☐ I am the creditor. ☐ I am the creditor's attorney or authorized agent.		
I have	ramined the information in this <i>Proof of Claim</i> and have a reasonable belief that the information is true ect.		
I decla	under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.		
Signature: Robert M. Bone Assert M. Bone (Aug. 16, 2022 15:53 PDT)			
Email: bob@robertbonelaw.com			
Signature			
Print the name of the person who is completing and signing this claim:			
Name	Robert Murray Bone		
	First name Middle name Last name		
Title	Principal		
Compa	Law Office of Robert M. Bone		
	Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent is a servicer.		
Addres	645 Fourth Street, Suite 205		

CA

State

Email

95404 ZIP Code

bob@robertbonelaw.com

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Number

City

Contact phone

Santa Rosa

Attach Supporting Documentation (limited to a single PDF attachment that is less than 5 megabytes in size and under 100 pages):	
I have supporting documentation. (attach below)	I do <u>not</u> have supporting documentation.

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND REDACT ACCORDINGLY PRIOR TO UPLOADING THEM. PROOFS OF CLAIM AND ATTACHMENTS ARE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE TO VIEW ONLINE.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING REDACTING YOUR PROOF OF CLAIM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION When you submit a proof of claim and any supporting documentation you must show only the last four digits of any social-security, individual's tax-identification, or financial-account number, only the initials of a minor's name, and only the year of any person's date of birth. If the claim is based on the delivery of health care goods or services, limit the disclosure of the goods or services so as to avoid embarrassment or the disclosure of confidential health care information.

A document has been redacted when the person filing it has masked, edited out, or otherwise deleted, certain information. The responsibility for redacting personal data identifiers (as defined in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037) rests solely with the party submitting the documentation and their counsel. Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court will not review any document for redaction or compliance with this Rule and you hereby release and agree to hold harmless Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court from the disclosure of any personal data identifiers included in your submission. In the event Prime Clerk or the Clerk of the Court discover that personal identifier data or information concerning a minor individual has been included in a pleading, Prime Clerk and the Clerk of the Court are authorized, in their sole discretion, to redact all such information from the text of the filing and make an entry indicating the correction.

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### Instructions for Proof of Claim (Fire Claim Related)

United States Bankruptcy Court

You may have a claim against the Debtors for monetary loss, personal injury (including death), or other asserted damages arising out of or related to a fire. You should consider obtaining the advice of an attorney, especially if you are unfamiliar with the chapter 11 process and privacy regulations.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157 and 3571.

#### How to fill out this form

- Fill in all of the information about the claim as of the date this claim form is filed.
- If the claim has been acquired from someone else, then state the identity of the last party who owned the claim or was the holder of the claim and who transferred it to you before the initial claim was filed.
- For a minor child, fill in only the child's initials and the full name of the child's parent or guardian. For example, write A.B., a minor child (John Doe, parent). See Bankruptcy Rule 9037.
- You may but are not required to attach supporting documents to this form.
  Supporting documents will be gathered, maintained, and provided at a later date as instructed by the Court. If you do attach documents, you should attach redacted documents as supporting documentation will be made publicly available and will not be kept confidential. See the definition of
- Do not attach original documents because attachments may be destroyed after scanning.

redaction of information below.

Question 3. Members of a family may but are not required to file a proof of claim as a family but may, if they choose, submit individual claim forms for each family member that has a claim against the debtors.

- Question 9. If you suffered property damage, then provide the street address of each real property parcel where you suffered property damage. If you were personally evacuated as the result of a fire, then provide the address or intersection closest to where you encountered the fire and began evacuation. If you suffered property damage and were evacuated from a different location, include both. If you were a renter, provide the address of your residence.
- Question 10. This question requests general statements of underlying facts relating to harm and is not intended to be exhaustive or preclusive.
- Question 11. You are not required to include a claim amount with your proof of claim. Providing a claim amount at this time is optional.

#### Confirmation that the claim has been filed

To receive confirmation that the claim has been filed, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and a copy of this form together with the original. You may view a list of filed claims in this case by visiting the Claims and Noticing Agent's website at

https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/pge.

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#### Understand the terms used in this form

Claim: A creditor's right to receive payment for a debt that the debtor owed on the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. §101 (5). A claim may be secured or unsecured.

Creditor: A person, corporation, or other entity to whom a debtor owes a debt that was incurred on or before the date the debtor filed for bankruptcy. 11 U.S.C. § 101 (10).

**Debtor:** A person, corporation, or other entity who is in bankruptcy. In this instance, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Information that is entitled to privacy: A Proof of Claim form and any attached documents must show only the last 4 digits of any social security number, an individual's tax identification number, or a financial account number, only the initials of a minor's name, and only the year of any person's date of birth. If a claim is based on delivering health care goods or services, limit the disclosure of the goods or services to avoid embarrassment or disclosure of confidential health care information. You may later be required to give more information if the trustee or someone else in interest objects to the claim.

**Proof of claim:** A form that shows the creditor has a claim against the debtors on or before the date of the bankruptcy filing (in these cases, January 29, 2019). The form must be filed in the district where the case is pending.

Redaction of information: Masking, editing out, or deleting certain information to protect privacy. Filers must redact or leave out information entitled to privacy on the Proof of Claim form and any attached documents.

#### Offers to purchase a claim

Certain entities purchase claims for an amount that is less than the face value of the claims. These entities may contact creditors offering to purchase their claims. Some written communications from these entities may easily be confused with official court documentation or communications from the debtor. These entities do not represent the bankruptcy court, the bankruptcy trustee, or the debtor. A creditor has no obligation to sell its claim. However, if a creditor decides to sell its claim, any transfer of that claim is subject to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(e), any provisions of the Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.) that apply, and any orders of the bankruptcy court that apply.

#### Please send completed Proof(s) of Claim to:

#### If by first class mail:

PG&E Corporation Claims Processing Center c/o Prime Clerk LLC Grand Central Station, PO Box 4850 New York, NY 10163-4850

#### If by overnight courier or hand delivery:

PG&E Corporation Claims Processing Center c/o Prime Clerk LLC 850 Third Avenue, Suite 412 Brooklyn, NY 11232

You may also hand deliver your completed Proof(s) of Claim to any of the following service center offices (beginning July 15, 2019 through the Bar Date (October 21, 2019) during the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Prevailing Pacific Time):

Chico Service Center 350 Salem Street Chico, CA 95928

Marysville Service Center 231 "D" Street Marysville, CA 95901

Napa Service Center 1850 Soscol Ave. Ste 105 Napa, CA 94559

Oroville Service Center 1567 Huntoon Street Oroville, CA 95965

Redding Service Center 3600 Meadow View Road Redding, CA 96002

Santa Rosa Service Center 111 Stony Circle Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Photocopy machines will not be available at the Claim Service Centers; you must bring a photocopy of your Proof of Claim if you wish to receive a date-stamped copy.

Do not file these instructions with your form

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# Electronic Proof of Claim\_AOKGH27402[[CSLT #4025#CF]]

2022-08-16

Final Audit Report

Created:

2022-08-16

Bv:

Kroll (efiling@ra.kroll.com)

Status:

Signed

Transaction ID:

CBJCHBCAABAAU02yFyvgwQMV4fcUw-hcs0ckRhFStrrl

# "Electronic Proof of Claim\_AOKGH27402[[CSLT#4025#CF]]" His tory

- Web Form created by Kroll (efiling@ra.kroll.com) 2022-08-16 10:54:29 PM GMT
- Web Form filled in by Robert M. Bone (bob@robertbonelaw.com) 2022-08-16 10:58:08 PM GMT- IP address: 98.248.217.162
- (User email address provided through API User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/104.0.0.0 Safari/537.36) 2022-08-16 10:58:10 PM GMT- IP address: 98.248.217.162
- Agreement completed.

2022-08-16 - 10:58:10 PM GMT

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Case: 19 300 8 Sign Doc# 12772 Filed: 08/19/22 Entered: 08/19/22 10:27:19 Page 16

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